

COTTRELL ROAD BRIDGE
Spanning the CSX Railroad Tracks
Vasser vicinity
Tuscola County
Michigan

HAER No. MI-110

HAER
MICH
79-VASS.V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Great Lakes Systems Office
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, NE 68102-2571

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
COTTRELL ROAD BRIDGE

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Location: Cottrell Road spanning the CSX
Railroad Drain, Vassar
Vicinity, Tuscola County,
Michigan.

UTM:17.288950.4804840

Quad: Vassar, Mich.

Date of Construction: 1900

Contractor: Unknown

Present Owner: Tuscola County Road Commission
Tuscola, Michigan

Present Use: Vehicular bridge

Significance: This bridge is one of only six
timber trestle structures in
Michigan and by far the longest
example, having twice the
length of the next longest
example.

Project Information: The bridge replacement became
more critical after the 1991
bridge inspection indicated the
10 ton load limit. To mitigate
the adverse effect, the State
Historic Preservation Office
stipulated documentation of the
historic bridge. This
documentation was undertaken to
fulfill the first stipulation
of the Memorandum of Agreement.

R.S. Scott Associates, Inc.
405 River Street
Alpena, MI 49707

Summary Description of Bridge and Setting

The Cottrell Road Bridge is located near the City of Vassar in Tuscola County. Cottrell Road is a North-South road on a 20.12 m (66') right-of-way. The approach roadway surface is constructed of bituminous material North and South of the bridge. The total approach roadway width is 9.14 m (30') with two 3.66 m (12') lanes and 1.22 m (4') shoulders at the approaches. The existing bridge is a nine-span all timber structure has a 76.2 mm x 304.8 mm (3" x 12") wood plank deck supported on 203.2 mm x 406.4 mm (8" x 16") timber stringers and timber pier bents. The bridge abutments are nearly perpendicular to the road centerline, and the CSX Railroad crosses beneath the road at approximately 13° skew. There is 5.09 m (16.7') with a clear roadway width of 4.57 m (15'-0") curb-to-curb. The structure is 43.89 m (144'-0") long, 4.83 m (15'-10") wide between wooden railings and 7.32 m (24'-0") high above the railroad tracks. There are four approach spans of 4.57 m (15'-0") on each end of the 6.71 m (22'-0") center span over the tracks. The structure has 76.2 mm x 304.8 mm (3" x 12") wood plank deck supported on 203.2 mm x 406.4 mm (8" x 16") timber stringers and timber pier bents.

This is the first structure constructed at this crossing. There has been minimal maintenance work done on the structure, with no reconstruction or stabilization work undertaken.

The present average daily traffic (ADT) is 990 vehicles and is expected to reach 1615 vehicles by the year 2015. The bridge is presently posted for a 10 ton load limit for H-trucks.

Cottrell Road bridge is significant and critical to the transportation needs of today's farm equipment, school buses, emergency vehicles, commercial traffic, trucks and cars in this area. Currently, all vehicles except cars and pickups must detour 9.65 km (6 miles).

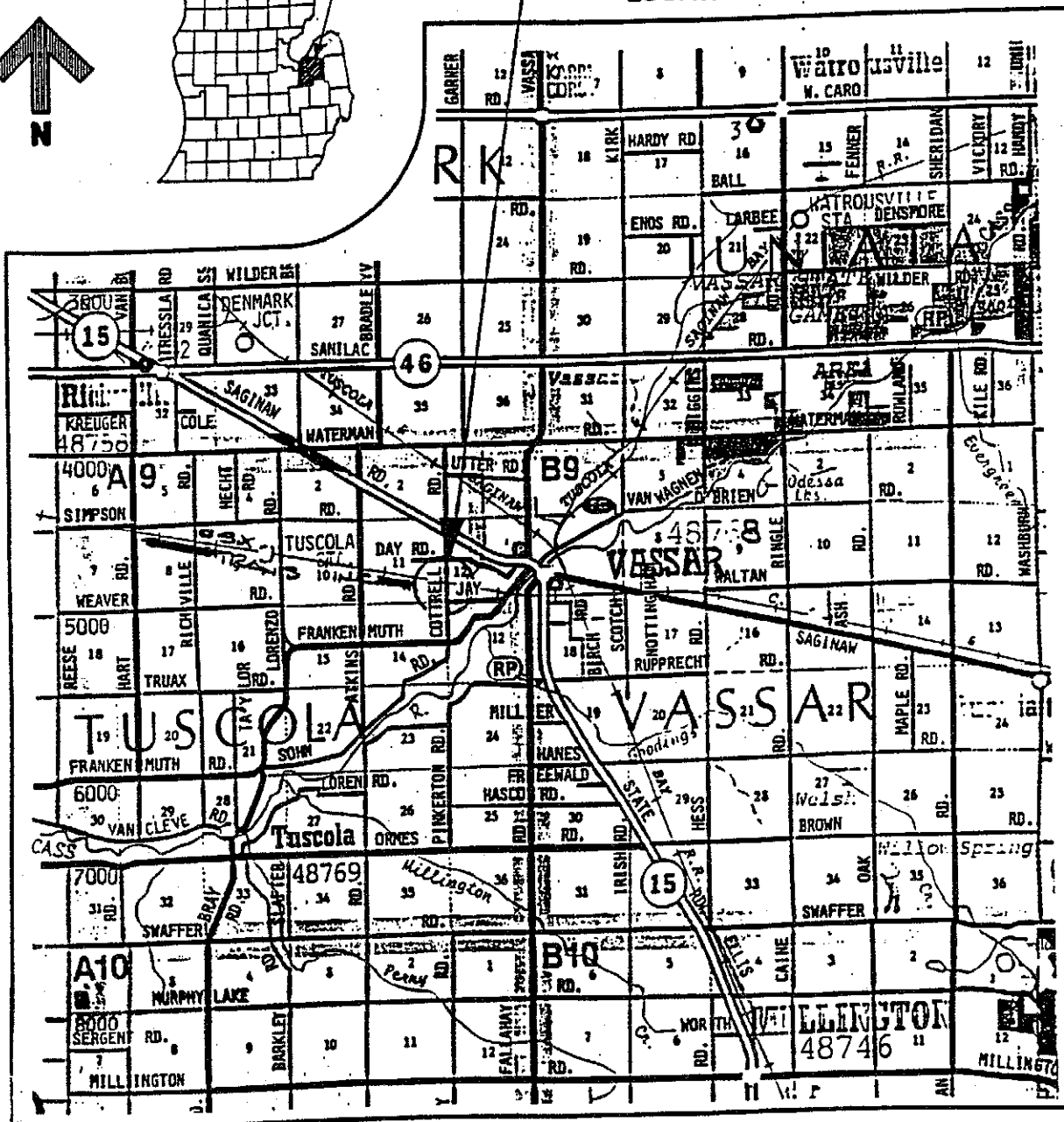
The Cottrell Road bridge was built in 1900 prior to that an at grade crossing one mile West, at Atkins Road, and a via-duct crossing approximately 3/4 mile East at Frankenmuth Road were the nearest crossing. The new structure created a more timely crossing for local residents and farmers whose farmlands had been divided by the railroad grade. The new structure also created a more convenient by-pass around the City of Vassar.

The above information was supplied by the Tuscola County Road Commission. This is all the information their search has uncovered.

Bibliography

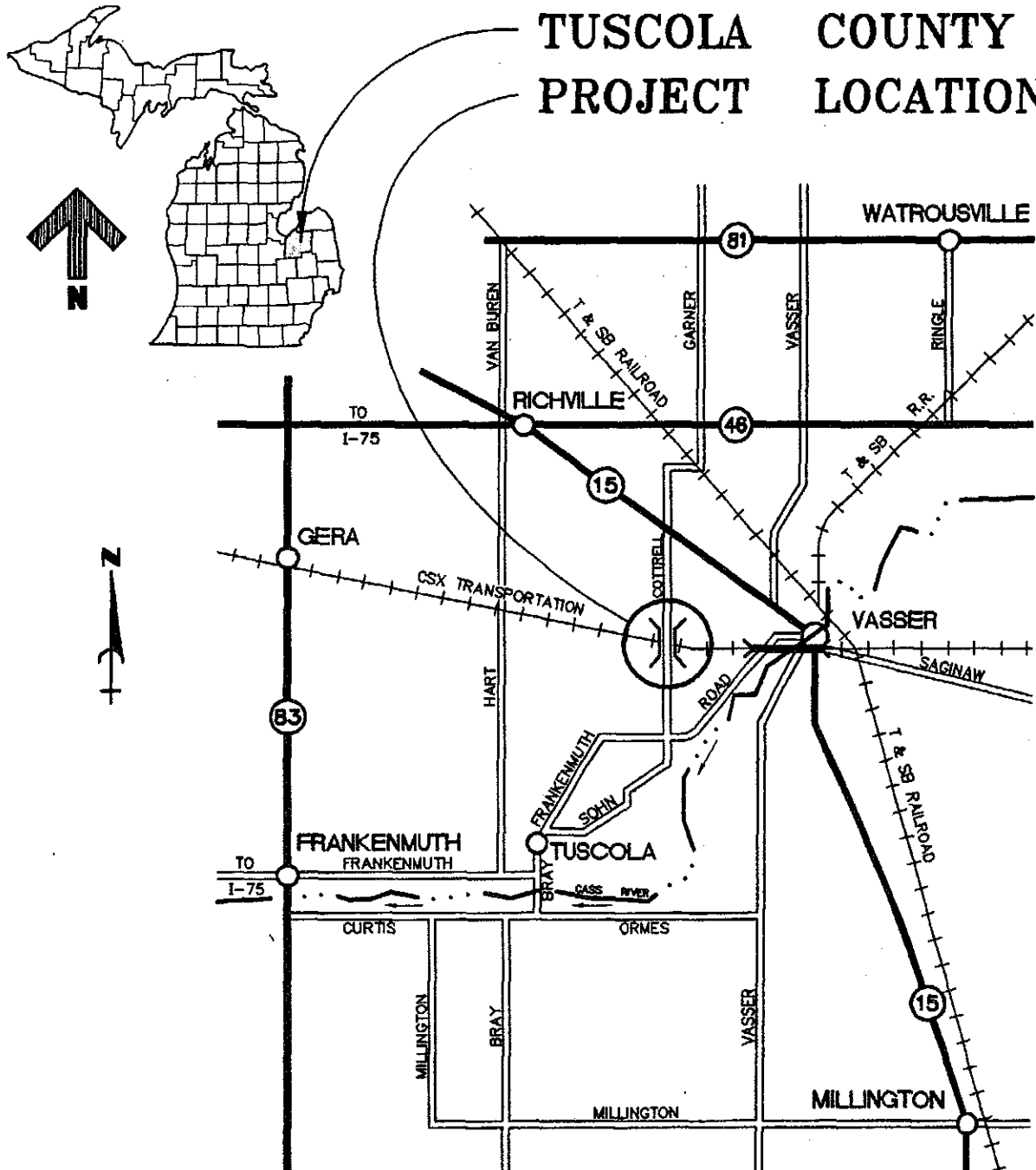
Tuscola County Road Commission, Cottrell Road over the CSX Railroad River Drain Survey Notes, 1992.

LOCATION SKETCH



BY: D.R.B. DATE: AUG. 1994 W.O. 79-151

TUSCOLA COUNTY PROJECT LOCATION



TUSCOLA COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
Cottrell Rd. over CSX Transportation, Inc
Tuscola Township
Sec. 11 & 12, T11N, R7E

R.S. SCOTT ASSOCIATES
405 RIVER ST.
ALPENA, MICHIGAN 49707
(517) 354-3178

BY: T.A.S. DATE: July 1996 W.O. 79-151